Osmerus mordax

Rainbow smelt, Frostfish, American smelt, Ice fish, Smelt

Threat Scores

1. Ecological Impact
    - Damaged the large sport fish populations in two ways.
    - First, the adult smelt actually prey on the young sport fish; this added source of predation has decreased the abundance of sport fish in many ecosystems
    - The other negative effect of Smelt is that that as young of year fish the smelt directly compete with the young sport fish for the limited supply of zooplankton
    - Rainbow Smelt populations that are found in inland lakes can have negative effects on the lake community
    - The smelt concentrates PCBs in its fatty tissue, and magnifies it through the food chain
    - High mercury levels also accumulate in the top food chain predators
2. Invasive Potential
    - Have expanded range via connected waterways
3. Geographic Extent
    - Locally pervasive
4. Management Difficulty
    - Commercial fishing can aid in keeping populations under control in introduced waters

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: North American Atlantic Coast from New Jersey to Labrador, landlocked populations
2. Introduced: Virginia, Washington, Oregon
3. Habitats
    - Water courses, lakes, reservoirs, marine
    - An anadromous fish, with landlocked populations that have adapted to freshwater environments

Invasion Pathways

1. Natural spread
2. Stocking in open water - intentionally stocked as baitfish

Non-Native Locations

1. 41- Virginian
2. 56- Puget Trough/Georgia Basin
3. 57- OR, WA, Vancouver Coast and Shelf

Sources

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3. http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/speciesSummary.php?id=253
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